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PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER OR CIA AGENT?

By BLITZ Delhi Bureau

NEW DELHI: Here is the story of a US Mata Hari who has been operating in India for the last four years, although declared an unwanted person by a Government institution in Hyderabad.

Joyce Russel is a 24 to 25-year-old Blonde, pretty, and speaks Hyderabadi Urdu -- even wears the churidar and kameez. She came to India as a Peace Corps volunteer in June 1963 and joined the Government Home Science College, Hyderabad, as a teacher.

INDISCIPLINE

Holding her responsible for the spread of indiscipline in the college — she made girls break college rules frequently, even arranging dates with boys — the Principal, Dr. Subai Amma, demanded her expulsion in December 1963. **Instead of packing her off on the basis of this adverse report, she was allowed to stay in the hostel, although relieved of her duties in the college.**

On the expiry of her term as a volunteer, Joyce left for the US in January, 1965. After undergoing "special training" there for three months, she returned to India in May, 1965 with a batch of 31 volunteers for Andhra to work in the field of nutrition.

ber of the Peace Corps staff, first as Associate Director and now as Regional Director of the Corps in Andhra, although the necessary Government approval for the opening of such an office was never secured.

Since her return to India, Joyce Russel had been to the US five times, ostensibly for training and consultation. Although based in Hyderabad, she operates in all sensitive areas, frequently visiting the Capital too. Her trunk call bills on her Hyderabad phone number alone come to thousands of rupees.

SENSITIVE

That her charms are not wasted on officials and other key personalities is evident from the way she has ramified the CIA—Peace Corps in politically sensitive States in the country.

A Christmas visit to Orissa in 1965 resulted in a "nutrition" group of 35 landing in that State in January 1966. Madras had steadfastly been refusing to have anything to do with the Peace Corps; but such is the magic presence of this woman that 30 volunteers are presently looking after the health and nutrition of that State.

In Andhra alone she was responsible for creating requests for 192 volunteers between November, 1965 and December 1966. The last batch of 25, which has already arrived, is meant for vegetable production!

1966, but decided to defer a decision on this. Meanwhile, Joyce has put nine volunteers there.

Joyce has a lot of say in Washington. She got engaged to a fellow Peace Corps worker, Thomas Arens, while in training in the US in 1965. She has, however, seen to it that he also is posted to Hyderabad.

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